

United States. Since that time, organ and tissue transplantation have significantly increased, and last year, more than 25,000 Americans received an organ transplant. National Donate Life Month provides the opportunity to raise awareness about organ and tissue donation and the importance of sharing your decision to donate with your family.

While medical advances are enabling Americans to receive lifesaving transplants, there are not enough donors to help everyone in need. Last year, close to 6,000 Americans died while waiting for organ transplants. Currently, more than 84,000 of our citizens are on the waiting list for a donation, and approximately 30,000 people will be diagnosed with diseases that a bone marrow transplant could cure.

My Administration is committed to increasing organ and tissue donation. I have included nearly \$25 million in my 2005 budget proposal for organ procurement and transplantation efforts at the Department of Health and Human Services and nearly \$23 million to support a bone marrow donor registry. In addition, we continue to increase donations through the "Gift of Life Donation Initiative." This campaign encourages businesses and organizations to make information on donation available to their employees, volunteers, and members, provides donor cards for individuals to carry with them, promotes the development of donor registries, and encourages States to educate teenagers on donation through their drivers' education classes. To make organ donation more viable, I recently signed into law the Organ Donation and Recovery Improvement Act. The Act authorizes the awarding of grants for travel reimbursement to potential donors and helps to increase public awareness and education about organ donation programs.

After a person decides to be a donor, one of the most important things he or she needs to do is talk with family members about this decision. Many opportunities are missed each year because families do not know what their loved ones wanted. During National Donate Life Month, we honor our Nation's organ and tissue donors and their families. Their decision to share the gift of life through America's donor programs serves as a positive example for all our citizens.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 2004 as National Donate Life Month. I call upon our citizens to sign an organ and tissue donor card and to be screened for bone marrow donation. I also urge health care professionals, volunteers, educators, government agencies, and private organizations to help raise awareness of the important need for organ and tissue donors in communities throughout our Nation.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this eighth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-eighth.

George W. Bush

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NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on April 12.

Message on the Observance of Easter 2004

April 9, 2004

The Lord is risen indeed . . .

Luke 24:34

I send greetings to Christians around the world as they gather to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jesus' life and teachings continue to speak to every generation, and Christians believe his miraculous Resurrection provides hope for the future and offers us the promise of new life.

Through His ministry and sacrifice, Jesus demonstrated God's unconditional love for us. He taught us the importance of helping others and loving our neighbors. His selfless devotion and mercy provide a remarkable example for all of us.

As families and friends gather to enjoy this Easter season, we celebrate God's gift of freedom and His love that conquers death. For those who observe Easter, our faith brings confidence that good will overcome

evil and that joy is everlasting. Today, we give thanks for God's many blessings and pray for His peace in the affairs of men.

Laura joins me in sending our best wishes for a happy Easter.

George W. Bush

NOTE: The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language version of this message. An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

April 3

In the morning, at Camp David, MD, the President had an intelligence briefing.

April 4

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC.

April 5

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Charlotte, NC, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Laura Spencer. Later, at Central Piedmont Community College-Central Campus, he met with job training program participants.

In the afternoon, the President traveled to St. Louis, MO, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Karen Danton.

Later in the afternoon, at Busch Stadium, the President threw out the first pitch for an opening day Major League Baseball game between the St. Louis Cardinals and the Milwaukee Brewers. Later, he participated in separate interviews with Fox Sports Midwest and Mike Sharron of KMOX Radio.

In the evening, the President traveled to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

April 6

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to El Dorado, AR, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Joe McFadden.

In the afternoon, the President returned to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

April 7

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. He then had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom to discuss counterterrorism efforts, the situations in Iraq and the Middle East, and Prime Minister Blair's upcoming visit to the White House.

Later in the morning, the President had a videoconference with the National Security Council, including Ambassador L. Paul Bremer III, Presidential Envoy to Iraq, and Gen. John P. Abizaid, USA, combatant commander, U.S. Central Command.

In the afternoon, the President had a second videoconference with the National Security Council, including Ambassador Bremer and Gen. Abizaid.

The White House announced that the President will host Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom at the White House on April 16.

The White House announced that the President will meet with Prime Minister Paul Martin of Canada at the White House on April 30.

April 8

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Vladimir Putin of Russia to discuss the situation in Iraq, counterterrorism efforts, and other issues. He then had an intelligence briefing.

During the day, the President had a telephone conversation with National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice to discuss her testimony before the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (9/11 Commission) earlier in the day. Later, he hosted a tour of the Bush Ranch for representatives of conservation and sportsmen's organizations.